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Southam Rural District

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

HEALTH OF THE DISTRICT

FOR THE YEARS 1955 and 1956

BY

D. LIVINGSTONE, M.B., D.P.H.,

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

OF THE

Warwickshire Combined Districts

Leamington Spa

A. TOMES LTD., PRINTERS, 46, BEDFORD STREET

38, HOLLY WALK,
LEAMINGTON SPA.
27th November, 1957.

To the Southam Rural District Council.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have once again the honour to report to you on the health and sanitary services of your district. I have also to tender to you my apologies for the late production of this report.

Owing to the unusual number of official schemes and enquiries on foot during 1956, so long a delay arose in assembling the material for the 1955 annual report that it was decided to combine the report with that for the year 1956. Unfortunately the pressure of work, arising out of your two large comprehensive water schemes, further delayed its preparation. Also a long absence due to personal illness caused the drafting of the combined report to be much slower than had been expected.

As far as possible the form of report has kept to the lines followed by my predecessor, Dr. H. Gibbons Ward. However, the detailed lists of plans approved under your bye-laws will no longer be included as these appear of too small a general interest to justify the addition of several pages to your printing costs. For the same reason statistical matter on your housing programme is curtailed since the Ministry concerned now requires periodic reports at shorter intervals than one year.

The health of the district was good during the period under review with favourable birth and death rates. In both years there was a substantial rise in population which was absorbed with little difficulty. It seems therefore that this district could with ease support a larger population than is officially planned and that extra heads would enable parts of the rural district to enjoy desirable amenities now out of reach. Growth of the district has long been held back by the reluctance of past councils to plan and develop schemes of sanitary engineering. Now that the natural obstacles, such as lack of services, have been removed, only hypothetical ones bar the path.

Once again I have pleasure in recording my appreciation of the support and good will of the Council and of the courtesy and help which I have had from the Clerk, the Surveyor and all my fellow officers.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

D. LIVINGSTONE,

Medical Officer of Health.

Southam Rural District.

A. EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

	1955	1956
Population (estimated) Mid-year	14,470	15,180
Area	62, 527	acres
Birth Rate per 1,000 population (Crude)	15.7	16.4
" " " (Corrected)	16.9	20.3
Still Birth Rate—Rate per 1,000 total births	17.7	11.9
Death Rate per 1,000 population (Crude)	9.1	9.6
" " " (Corrected)	9.8	11.8
Deaths from Diseases and Accidents of Pregnancy and Child-birth	From Sepsis	—
	From other causes	—
Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age :—		
All Infants per 1,000 live births	22.5	8.1
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	23.1	8.3
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	—	—
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	—	—
" " Whooping Cough (all ages)	—	—
" " Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	—	—

The estimated population has increased by 1160 during 1955 and by 710 during 1956.

B. GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE DISTRICT.

1. (a) *Surveyor and Chief Public Health Inspector.*

S. C. WHITEHEAD, A.M.I.S.E., M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Deputy Surveyor and Public Health Inspector.

G. S. H. PEATY, M.A.P.H.I., A.R.S.H.

Additional Public Health Inspectors.

P. F. BROOKS, M.A.P.H.I., A.R.S.H. (resigned May, 1956).

P. C. DAWSON, M.A.P.H.I., A.R.S.H. (appointed March, 1956).

2. (a) *Laboratory Facilities.*—Bacteriological examinations are carried out by the Public Health Laboratory Service, Coventry during 1955.

	<i>Positive</i>	<i>Negative</i>	<i>Total</i>
1955 Diphtheria	—	2	2
1956 Dysentery	—	3	3

Many examinations are of course carried out in hospital laboratories in connection with the work of the chest Clinics.

C. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

1.—*Water Supply.*

Northern Area Comprehensive Water Scheme.—A starting date of 1st April 1955 was agreed with the responsible Ministry and from four tenderers Messrs. Henry Boot and Sons Ltd. of Sheffield were awarded the contract.

Notice was received from the Town Clerk to the Leamington Borough Council that Warwick Borough Council had withdrawn from participation in the joint scheme for a reservoir to impound water from the River Leam. Thus a meeting was called in order to settle a revised basis of charges acceptable in principle to the parties. By the early part of May 1955 work on the 9 inch rising main to the Harbury water tower from Leamington Spa was well in hand. Work was at first concentrated on this section.

On October 6th, 1955, the Public Inquiry was held into Leamington Corporation's scheme for the impounding reservoir. By December 1955 the pipe line from Campion Hills reservoir to Harbury Water Tower was complete except for crossings of the River Leam and the Oxford Canal. As soil trials showed that an open cut crossing would be advisable, it was necessary to negotiate with the British Transport Commission for a temporary closure of the canal to traffic. The crossing was made between Radford Semele and Offchurch during the Easter holiday 1956. This complicated feat of engineering was most skilfully performed and the closure gave the Canal authority an opportunity to remove an astonishing quantity and variety of rubbish which had been deposited in the waterway near the Offchurch locks.

By 1st June, 1956, the permanent main, linking Southam to Leamington, was in use and Harbury water tower was put into service before the end of 1956. By this time Gaydon reservoir was ready for use and work upon Priors Marston reservoir had reached an advanced stage.

Southern Area Comprehensive Scheme.—Work upon this scheme progressed well within the Southam Rural District but in the adjoining district through which the trunk mains had to pass, an unforeseen and substantial delay arose through a change of contractor. By the end of 1955, mainlaying in the Southam Rural District had been completed.

Work was then pushed forward upon the Edge Hill water tower and the reservoir above Avon Dassett. By the end of 1956 the work upon this scheme had reached its virtual completion and it stood in readiness for connection to the water mains being laid through Shipston rural district to the Southam boundary.

GENERAL CIRCUMSTANCES OF WATER SUPPLY.

1. Whether the supply has been satisfactory—
(a) in quality—Yes. The Council's supplies have been satisfactory.

(b) in quantity—serious shortage prevailed in the early part of 1955 and at Avon Dassett during the latter part of 1956.

2. Where there is a piped supply, regular samples are taken for bacteriological examination.

3. The water from Holywell at Southam is passed through a pressure sand filter and chlorinated.

4. The following table shows the proportion of dwelling houses and population supplied with water from public mains as at December, 1956.

Parish.	Total No. of Houses.	Total No. of Popula- tion.	Supply direct to		Supply by stand pipe to	
			(a) Houses.	(b) Popula- tion.	(a) Houses.	(b) Popula- tion.
Avon Dassett (Private Com- pany).	59	215	12	42	42	150
Bishops Itch- ington	367	1035	239	717	85	260
Burton Dassett	160	1781	109	323	33	96
Fenny Compton (Private Com- pany)	175	586	87	291	78	260
Gaydon	105	446	95	287	7	22
Harbury ...	457	1536	270	899	124	411
Ladbroke ..	61	270	58	185	1	3
Lighthorne	96	688	41	123	2	6
Long Itchington	404	1538	157	528	130	442
Lower Shuck- burgh ...	23	89	17	50	—	—
Napton	253	970	144	502	78	286
Priors Hardwick	59	176	43	124	12	33
Priors Marston	157	450	133	395	14	40
Radway	79	244	50	135	23	65
Southam	553	2195	350	1337	196	750
Stoekton	290	1058	205	707	37	130
Ufton	64	149	34	99	—	—
Upper Rad- bourne	4	12	4	9	—	—
Warmington ...	87	307	1	3	41	143

By the end of 1955 only 36 huts were in use at the Gaydon Squatters' Camp so as to house some 53 families.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

Harbury, Bishops Itchington and Napton.

It was possible to bring these works and their associated sewers into use during the period under review.

Long Itchington Scheme.—A tender was accepted in July 1955. Work began on 16th January, 1956, and went on throughout the ensuing year. An Inspector of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government visited the works on November 22nd, 1956.

Burton Dassett.—Tenders were invited in February, 1955, and the approved contractors, Messrs. Roads and Sewers Ltd., began work on 15th September, 1955. The scheme was almost complete by the end of 1956. The Ministry's Inspector visited the site in November, 1956.

Fenny Compton.—An official enquiry was held on 15th April, 1955, and approval in principle followed. Sanction to proceed with the works was however limited for the time being to the portion needed to serve the proposed new housing estate.

Priors Marston.—An informal inquiry was held on 4th September, 1956.

Lighthorne.—An outline scheme had been submitted to the Ministry on 27th June, 1956. In view of local protests fresh inspections were made by the M.O.H. and Surveyor. It was found that in dry weather the normal flow in the brook was not enough to dilute the drainage and effluent finding access thereto and stagnant conditions obtained with putrid sludge giving off most offensive sewage odours perceptible in the vicinity of many houses. When flushed by storm water or in wet weather, the condition of the brook had much improved. There is no doubt however that for a period in each year very objectionable conditions arise here which must to some degree prejudice health and amenity.

Southam.—The revised engineering plans were approved both by this Council and the Ministry during 1956. Restrictions upon capital expenditure, however, halted progress in carrying out the works. This situation could not have been acceptable, had the comprehensive water schemes not been so far advanced, because of the very real risks of pollution of your Holy Well borehole by insufficiently treated effluents from the existing sewage works under storm conditions.

Stockton.—Although April 1956 had been fixed as a starting date, this scheme, so long and so badly needed, was again

held up by financial restrictions. So foul, however, had the condition of the irrigation lands become, with consequent fouling of the watercourse traversing them, that it seemed impossible to defer this scheme much longer. The only alternative would have been to submerge more good farming land in a quagmire of filth.

Avon Dassett, Farnborough, Ratley and Shotteswell.—Schemes for all these four parishes were presented to the Ministry's Inspector at an enquiry held on 20th November, 1956.

Warmington.—An enquiry into this scheme was held on 3rd October, 1956.

Radway and Wormleighton.—Schemes for both parishes were under preparation by your consulting engineers.

D. HOUSING.

No commentary is made this year as the official requirements have been relaxed ; moreover the Chief Public Health Inspector's report goes into some detail and it is not desired to duplicate information on this subject. Overcrowding seems not to be prevalent in your district although housing standards generally are low.

E. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

All food shops in the district were re-inspected during the year 1956 with a view to compliance with the Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955.

In general, the work required to achieve the prescribed standard was small, mainly installation of hot water supply, sink, etc., and most shop-keepers were willing to have the necessary work carried out.

Due to the absence of mains water supply in some villages in the southern area of the district, it was not possible in all cases to enforce the provision of adequate washing facilities. It is hoped during 1957 to deal with this question.

Licensed Premises.—During the year 1955 detailed inspection of all the licensed premises in the district was made by Mr. P. L. Brooks, so as to ascertain the existing hygienic conditions ; particular attention was paid to such items as sanitary accommodation, washing-up facilities, conditions of kitchens used for catering purposes, structural conditions of bars and cellars, and general cleanliness. The findings and subsequent report were received with great interest. It was found that many unsatisfactory conditions existed, and in every case owners have been asked to have these matters

rectified. One interesting fact coming to light as a result of this survey was that in 10 instances licencees admitted that "overspill" beer was kept and filtered back into the mild beer supply. It is probable that this undesirable practice is followed widely outside the confines of this district and stems from unfavourable trading terms regarding spillage rather than deliberate disregard for the health of consumers.

MEAT INSPECTION.

1955

Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part

	Cattle excluding Cows Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed (if known)	56	2	1	306	259	Nil
Number inspected	56	2	1	306	259	Nil
<i>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci</i>						
Whole carcases condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	10	Nil	Nil	4	6	Nil
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci.....	17.86	—	—	1.31	2.32	Nil
<i>Tuberculosis only :</i>						
Whole carcases condemned	1	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	5	1	—	Nil	6	Nil
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	10.71	50	—	Nil	2.32	Nil
<i>Cysticercosis</i>						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Generalised and totally condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

1956

Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed (if known)	80	Nil	Nil	330	363	—
Number inspected.....	80	Nil	Nil	330	363	—
<i>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci</i>						
Whole carcases condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned	10	—	—	2	5	—
Percentage of the num- ber inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysti- cerci	12.5	—	—	0.7	1.3	—
<i>Tuberculosis only</i>						
Whole carcases condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned	2	—	—	—	6	—
Percentage of the num- ber inspected affected with tuberculosis	2.5	—	—	—	1.6	—
<i>Cysticercosis</i>						
Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigera- tion	—	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—

F. PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Incidence of Commoner Infectious Diseases since 1948

		Smallpox	Diphtheria.	Scarlet Fever.	Enteric Fever.	Pneumonia.	Poliomylitis	Puerperal Pyrexia.
1948	...	—	—	7	—	3	—	—
1949	...	—	—	4	—	1	—	—
1950	...	—	1	6	—	3	—	—
1951	...	—	1	2	—	2	—	—
1952	...	—	—	3	—	3	1	—
1953	...	—	—	3	—	7	3	—
1954	...	—	—	18	—	8	—	1
1955	...	—	—	19	—	7	1	—
1956	...	—	—	5	—	14	3	—

There was no special prevalence of any infectious disease during the year, but pneumonia notifications were above the average. 135 children were immunised against Whooping Cough in 1955 and 164 in the following year.

Diphtheria Immunization.

	<i>Numbers immunized for the first time</i>		<i>Booster Doses only</i>
	<i>School Age</i>	<i>Under 5 years</i>	
1955	42	147	208
1956	25	164	216

This represents a much higher rate of protection than the national average. Although no case of the disease has been notified in the county since 1951, county health visitors secure a very high percentage of consents to have infants immunized in the first year of life. Regrettably old prejudices against smallpox vaccination die hard and the acceptance rate here is at a dangerously low level.

TUBERCULOSIS 1955

Age Periods	New Cases				Transfers into District				Deaths			
	Pul- monary		Non- Pul.		Pul- monary		Non- Pul.		Pul- monary		Non- Pul.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1-5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5-10	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
10-15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15-20	1	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
20-25	1	1	—	2	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
25-35	—	2	1	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—
35-45	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
45-55	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55-65	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
56 & upwards	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	3	4	3	2	2	6	1	—	—	1	—	—

TUBERCULOSIS.

1956

Age Periods	New Cases				Transfers into District				Deaths			
	Pul- monary		Non- Pul.		Pul- monary		Non- Pul.		Pul- monary		Non- Pul.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1-5	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5-10	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10-15	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15-20	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20-25	1	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25-35	—	4	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
35-45	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—
45-55	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55-65	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 & upwards	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
	4	10	2	1	1	2	—	—	2	—	—	—

Tuberculosis.—The following table shows the notified cases and deaths during the past 21 years :—

	1936	1937	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942
Cases ...	14	15	19	12	6	14	15
Deaths ...	3	4	6	7	8	3	3
	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949
Cases ...	9	14	10	11	18	20	19
Deaths ...	7	4	7	6	6	3	6
	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956
Cases ...	12	15	12	22	20	21	20
Deaths ...	6	1	1	1	2	1	2

13 patients were admitted to Sanatorium during 1955 and 11 were discharged. For 1956 the figures were 9 and 12 respectively.

12 persons received B.C.G. vaccine inoculation during 1955 and 22 during 1956.

The figures for new cases include 9 inward transfers in 1955 and 3 in 1956.

The Mass Radiography Unit visited four parishes of the Rural District in June 1955. I am indebted to the Medical Director, Dr. Gordon Evans, for the following statistics :—

1. Miniature X-ray examinations	Male	Female	Total
Long Itchington ...	54	83	137
Southam ...	17	33	50
Fenny Compton ...	34	58	92
Bishops Itchington ...	18	44	62
2. Total recalled for large films ...	3	17	20
3. Total recalled for clinical examination ...	1	7	8

One male and four females were referred to the Leamington Chest Clinic for investigation of suspected Tuberculosis of the lungs.

MILK SUPPLIES.

During 1955 the County Council's sampling officers took 8 samples of Tuberculin Tested milk and 66 samples of ungraded milk for biological examination. One positive was obtained from the latter group. In the course of the resulting investigation 21 cows were examined by a Veterinary Surgeon and 5 diagnostic milk samples taken.

In 1956 8 samples of Tuberculin Tested and 108 samples of non-designated milks were taken without a single positive result. I am indebted to Dr. S. W. Savage, County Medical Officer, for the information given above.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948

Section 47 of this Act provides that where persons—

- (a) are suffering from grave chronic disease or, being aged, infirm or physically incapacitated are living in insanitary conditions and
- (b) are unable to devote to themselves, and are not receiving from other persons, proper care and attention, and the Medical Officer of Health gives a written certificate in the prescribed form, the local authority may apply to a court, having jurisdiction for an order to remove the person to a suitable and convenient place e.g. hospital. Seven clear days notice must be given of the intended application and it must also be given to the person managing the premises. The order, if granted, may authorize a person's detention for a period not exceeding three months.

1955

Case 1.—Miss B. Retired pensioner living alone in small unfit cottage. Practical help was obtained from villagers. In December 1955 she became ill. Sick room equipment was loaned by the Health Authority. She died in May 1956.

Case 2.—Miss G. Aged 83 years. Lived alone and had poor sight. Old Age Pensioner; supplement from National Assistance Board. Became unable to clean house and go upstairs and a request for home help was sent to the Area Office. However, she moved elsewhere to stay with friends.

Case 3.—Miss A. G. Aged 83 years. Hospital Almoner requested report upon this old lady who was awaiting admission to chronic hospital. No special urgency was found as younger relatives were managing to care for her satisfactorily.

Case 4.—Mrs. I. H. Aged 63 years. Following hospital treatment for cancer and fractured thigh was discharged to clear hospital bed. Arrangements were made for a District Nurse to assist relatives. Death occurred after three months.

Case 5.—Mr. W. L. Aged 74 years. A recluse who slept on sacks in a loft and refused to call a doctor although ill with Broncho pneumonia. He was found by a relative but died before help was obtained.

Case 6.—Mrs. A. M. Aged 74 years. Was in hospital with heart trouble. On discharge a home help was refused and very dirty conditions obtained in the home so that nursing supervision was needed. In November 1956 the patient could no longer be nursed at home and she was taken to hospital and died there.

1956

Case 1.—Mr. and Mrs. H. Help was requested by family in obtaining the tenancy of an old people's bungalow in another county where they could be near a son. After enquiries correspondence was held with the Housing Manager of the local authority concerned.

Case 2.—Miss E. M. After living for some time as a recluse this old lady was removed to a hospital. When her house was inspected very filthy conditions were found to have existed for a long time. It was the intention of the Council to serve a statutory notice for abatement of nuisances but this was prevented by her admission to a mental hospital as a certified patient.

Case 3.—Miss M. Aged 54 years. Had formerly been cared for by her mother but since the latter's death in 1953 had neglected herself and got the house rather dirty. Case referred by family doctor as he had found her unable to stand. Her condition appeared to arise from anaemia and debility caused by prolonged lack of fresh air and proper nourishment. A chronic bed vacancy was unobtainable and therefore a consultant was asked to pay a domiciliary visit. This was done and she was admitted, with some reluctance, to a medical ward. After adequate nourishment and vitamin therapy she recovered and went home.

Case 4.—Mr. S. Aged 83 years. Widower, blind and rather deaf. Passed over to the care of the Blind Visitor. Died in 1957.

REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR.

To the Southam Rural District Council.

TO CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit the annual report for work done in my department during the years 1955 and 1956.

Water Supply.

There was difficulty with the Holy Well supply but it was found possible by laying a temporary main through the canal at Radford Semele to obtain relief from the borough of Leamington Spa. Thus in 1956 for the first time for many years it was possible to avoid imposing restrictions in the parishes of Southam and Long Itchington. It was found necessary to lay a new three inch main at Priors Hardwick.

A survey of all farms in the area covered by the Northern and Southern comprehensive schemes was carried out and, to meet agricultural requirements, proposals submitted for mains extensions. In August 1956 the Minister approved in principle the Southern Area agricultural extensions but owing to capital restrictions no further progress could be agreed. Again, in the Southern area, formal offers (subject to conditions) of free connections were made and in June 1956 the Council's staff commenced the work of laying the necessary communication pipes. It was envisaged that the bulk supply from Shipston R.D.C. would be available early in 1957. The usual work of maintenance, meter reading, repair of burst pipes, etc., was carried on notwithstanding the extension of water activities and I must here acknowledge the enthusiastic response of the Council's workmen in the water service.

Towards the end of 1956 the Avon Dassett Water Company ceased to function and it became necessary to provide an emergency supply to bridge the gap until the coming into operation of the Southern comprehensive scheme. Appended are records of the new connections made to the existing mains :

Parish	Additional Houses supplied		Transferred from standpipe into house	
	1955	1956	1955	1956
Bishops Itchington	7	1	3	—
Burton Dassett ...	—	1	—	—
Gaydon	1	1	—	—
Harbury	17	12	3	—
Ladbroke	—	1	—	—
Lighthorne	—	1	—	—
Long Itchington	1	1	—	—
Napton	—	7	—	—
Priors Marston	1	—	—	—
Southam	8	22	—	—
Stockton	—	3	—	—
Ufton	2	4	—	—
	37	54	6	Nil

The following water samples were taken for the purposes indicated :—

	1955	1956
Bacteriological	76	109
Chemical	6	2

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.

Southam.—Evidence was given at an investigation held by an Inspector of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government on 6th March 1956, into the proposals for improvements to the works prepared by the Council's consulting engineers W. H. Bateman and partners. In July 1956 the Minister gave " approval in principle " but indicated that the scheme would not rank for grant. It was decided to ask the Minister again to authorize a grant in aid of this scheme.

Stockton.—The irrigation land is quite overloaded and sewage sick so that it is most unfortunate that the new disposal scheme has been deferred for financial reasons.

Long Itchington.—The Minister was urged to allow this scheme so that the council's housing proposals could proceed ; a large number of houses were required to meet the needs of slum clearance. It was considered that for some hundred houses the sewage disposal requirements could not be met by the type of temporary provision made for smaller Council estates of say 30 houses. In the result the Minister allowed the Council to proceed with the disposal works and that part of the sewerage scheme required for the new housing estate. The contract was eventually awarded to Messrs.

Bosworth and Wakeford and they began work on 16th January, 1956. Mr. A. G. Russell, a member of my staff, was seconded as Resident Engineer, an arrangement which has much to commend it.

Harbury and Bishops Itchington.—To achieve the necessary separation of "storm" and "foul" discharge to the sewers it was necessary to recommend the provision of storm water sewers at three of the Council's housing estates. In this connection it was recommended that the modernisation of those council houses requiring it should at least be planned before the work was proceeded with. The Ministry refused the Council's application for grant aid a reason being that the proposed work was the storm water drainage and not the foul. For the Council it was submitted that the work to be done was that necessary to achieve separation; that it was more expedient to provide storm than foul drains was quite immaterial. The case for grant aid was being pressed.

Priors Marston.—On 4th September, 1956, an Inspector of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government held an informal inquiry into the Council's scheme as proposed. At this evidence was submitted of an up-to-date survey of the sanitary conditions in the village. One problem revealed was the relatively large amount of farm drainage which the Council might be requested to receive and treat.

Lighthorne.—During dry periods in both 1955 and 1956 there were complaints of nuisance arising from the pollution of the watercourse by sillage and tank effluents. Conditions were, of course, improved by storm water to flush out the brook but the solution can only be the provision of the proposed sewerage and sewage disposal scheme; a date for the enquiry into this was awaited.

North End.—The contractors commenced work on this scheme on 15th September 1955—Mr. Russell acting as Resident Engineer.

Fenny Compton.—A detailed survey of sanitary conditions of the village was carried out and submitted to an inquiry into the Council's proposed scheme, held by an inspector of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government on 15th April, 1955. Authority was given to go ahead only with that part of the scheme necessary for the Council's housing project in this village.

Avon Dassett, Farnborough, Ratley and Shotteswell.—The Ministry of Housing and Local Government held an enquiry

into the proposed schemes of sewerage and sewage disposal for the above four parishes, when evidence was presented as to the sanitary conditions existing at each place. Having regard to the expected effect of the advent of piped water, the Council was advised that there might well be pressure from the River Conservancy Board for the completion of the Shotteswell scheme. Particular reference was made to this scheme again because the new council housing estate would involve the expense of a separate disposal plant and sewer extensions—the cost of which would be largely wasted if and when this village scheme was to be carried out. In the result the Minister was asked to allow, at any rate, that part of the village scheme which would serve the new housing site. However, the necessary permission was not forthcoming.

General Remarks.—The usual maintenance work on sewers and sewer ditches was carried out. Difficulty has been experienced with the labour necessary for sludge clearance and successful experiments have been made with a tractor fitted with bucket loader.

Refuse Collection.

I am pleased to report that it has been possible to preserve this service in spite of ever increasing difficulty in recruiting replacement labour. In this connection I must again commend the work of the foreman Mr. A. Hicks, who can always be relied upon to step in himself in an emergency. Some progress has been made with the conversion of pail closets by the water carriage system but the collection of pails is a serious problem. No guarantee can be given of its indefinite preservation. Indeed I see no prospect of replacing the present labour force now doing this class of work.

Milk and Dairies Regulations.

Routine visits of inspection were made to retail dairies and of milk delivery vans—during which 7 samples were taken for examination.

Milk (Special Designations) Regulations, 1949

Licences issued during the year.

	1955	1956
Dealers' licences for Pasteurised milk ...	8	11
Dealers' licences for Sterilised milk ...	1	2
Supplementary licences for Pasteurised milk	5	9
Supplementary licences for Sterilised milk	1	2
Dealers' licences for Tuberculin Tested milk	5	8
Supplementary licences for Tuberculin Tested milk	4	7

Housing.

During the year 1955 a Sub-Committee of the Council was formed with a view to compiling lists of sub-standard houses to be dealt with under the Council's Slum Clearance proposals. Properties in most villages in the District were inspected, and a programme of proposed slum clearance action for a ten year period was drawn up.

The Council's proposals for Slum Clearance action required under Section 1, Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, were submitted to and subsequently approved by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government. Following is a list of these proposals :—

Total number of permanent dwellings in the local authority's area	3,988
---	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-------

Part 1 The total problem

- | | | | | |
|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| (i) Estimated number of houses unfit for human habitation within the meaning of section 9 of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, and suitable for action under Section 11 or Section 25 of the Housing Act, 1936 | ... | ... | ... | 521 |
| (ii) Period in years which the Council think necessary for securing the demolition of all the houses in (i) | ... | ... | ... | — |

Part 2. Orders already made, etc.

- | | | | | | |
|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| (iii) Number of houses in (i) in clearance areas and already covered by operative clearance or compulsory purchase orders or owned by the Local Authority | ... | ... | ... | ... | 48 |
| (iv) Number of houses which are already in clearance areas and for which clearance or compulsory purchase orders have been submitted to the Minister but have not yet become operative. | | | | | Nil |

Part 3. Action in the first five years.

- | | | | | |
|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| (v) Number of houses which are already in clearance areas and for which clearance or compulsory orders are to be made or which are to be purchased by agreement within the five years. | | | | Nil |
| (vi) Number of houses which are to be included in clearance areas still to be declared and which within the five years will be owned by the local authority or will have been included in a clearance order or a compulsory purchase order submitted to the Minister | ... | ... | ... | 134 |

(vii)	Number of houses under (iii), (iv), (v) and (vi) to be patched (if necessary) and retained within the five years under section 2 of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, for temporary accommodation	Nil
(viii)	Number of houses under (iii), (iv), (v) and (vi) to be demolished in the five years	182
(ix)	Number of houses (including those already comprised in operative demolition orders) to be demolished in the five years as a result of action under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936	31

Two cottages were demolished under Section 11 procedure and one was the subject of an undertaking not to relet being given by the owner.

In the early part of 1956 a commencement was made to implement the Council's Slum Clearance proposals. Seven clearance areas comprising a total of 36 houses were dealt with in the village of Long Itchington. There were twelve objectors to the proposed areas, and on the 7th June, 1956 a Public Inquiry was held at the Council Offices by an Inspector from the Ministry of Housing and Local Government.

As mentioned in my previous report, in my experience there is a considerable variation in the application of the various housing standards, and it is of interest that the Ministry Inspector agreed that the standard of the Building By-laws could be taken as a guide.

On the 28th August, 1956, the Minister confirmed the Clearance Order. It is anticipated that the occupants of these areas will have been rehoused and the houses demolished in approximately two years.

The advent of the Northern Area Water Scheme together with the existing sewers in the villages of Harbury, Bishops Itchington, Napton and Southam, made it possible to allow the conversions of pail closets to water closets, and a number of these conversions have been carried out. However, the response has not been as great as was expected. A difficulty encountered has been the unsatisfactory location of existing closet structure which may be as far as 30 yards from the dwelling house. Whilst it is not possible to refuse application for such conversions, the applicants have been notified that in the event of action being taken under the Housing Acts with the object of improving the property, it will be a requirement that a water closet be provided in the house or imme-

diately adjacent thereto. This of course meets the standard required under the Housing Act, 1949 (Improvement Grants) which standard is surely the only acceptable one these days. During the period under review applications for Improvement Grants have been dealt with as follows :—

Applications received	...	...	...	34
Units of accommodation to be provided or improved	...	...	...	46
Applications approved	...	...	...	23
				for 35 units
Units completed	...	...	...	28

Food and Drugs Act.

Routine meat inspection was carried out at the one licensed slaughterhouse. The total weight of meat condemned as unfit for human consumption are as follows :—

1955 ... 895lbs. 11ozs.

1956 ... 273lbs. 13ozs.

The tables giving details appear in the report of the Medical Officer of Health.

Food.

1. *No. of food premises :—*

Butchers' shops	...	...	...	15
Bakehouses	...	...	...	6
Cafes, Canteens	...	...	...	9
Fish Shops	...	...	...	1
Fish and Chip Vans	...	...	...	1
General Provisions, confectionery, etc.				60
Public Houses	...	...	...	51
Total	...	...	...	143

2. No. of food premises registered under Section 16 of the Food & Drugs Act, 1955 ... 57
- No. of dairies registered under Milk & Dairies Regs. ... 12
3. No. of inspections, including re-inspection of registered food premises ... 85

Rodent Control.

Routine survey of premises including farms has been carried on throughout the district. A total of 3,667 inspections were made by the Council's rodent operator who made 616 treatments by consent of the occupiers concerned. Sewers, disposal works and refuse tips have also received regular treatment.

Infectious disease.

Visits of inspection and/or enquiries on behalf of the medical officer of health were made as follows :—

	1955	1956
Scarlet Fever	11	2
Poliomyelitis	1	3
Dysentery, etc.	—	3
Meningococcal Meningitis	—	1

Lots of infected bedding, etc., disinfected or destroyed :—

1 mattress, 2 pillows, 1 bolster.

Houses disinfected after cases of infectious disease ... 9

Atmospheric Pollution.

The Council became members of the Midlands Joint Advisory Council for the abatement of smoke and atmospheric pollution—and representatives attended meetings of that body. It is confidently expected that membership will assist in the solution of problems in this council's area.

Legal Proceedings.

1. Action was taken against a person for breaking into a water pumping station and interfering with the controls. The magistrates convicted the defendant.

2. There was an appeal against the council's refusal to issue a licence for the permanent use of a caravan for residential purposes. The Council's case was upheld by the magistrates on the understanding that sympathetic consideration would be given for temporary use.

3. Following action by the Council under S.11 of the Housing Act, 1936, the owner appealed to the County Court against the Council's demolition order. The Judge dismissed the appeal.

Following are numbers of plans submitted to the Southam Rural District Council.

1955

1. New houses	...	...	...	...	...	16
2. Conversions to dwelling houses	...	...	...	...	...	9
3. Alterations to dwelling houses	...	...	...	...	...	30
4. Extensions to dwelling houses	...	...	...	...	...	18
5. Drainage	...	...	...	...	...	12
6. Garages	...	...	...	...	...	36
7. Agricultural buildings	...	...	...	...	...	18
8. Sheds, pavilions, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	5
9. Retentions of temporary buildings	...	...	...	...	...	26
Total						170

1956

1. New houses	...	...	...	...	...	48
2. Conversions to dwelling houses	...	...	...	...	...	13
3. Alterations to dwelling houses	...	...	...	...	...	30
4. Extensions to dwelling houses	...	...	...	...	...	13
5. New Bathrooms and W.C.s	...	...	...	...	...	24
6. Drainage	...	...	...	...	...	6
7. Garages	...	...	...	...	...	43
8. Vehicular Accesses	...	...	...	...	...	4
9. Agricultural buildings	...	...	...	...	...	22
10. Sheds, pavilions	...	...	...	...	...	4
11. Sub-stations	...	...	...	...	...	5
12. Retentions of temporary buildings	...	...	...	...	...	32
13. Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	17
Total						261

Once again I have to offer my thanks for the courtesy and assistance always received from the members of the Council, the Medical Officer of Health and the other officers of the Council. And finally I would wish to acknowledge my indebtedness to all members of my staff, the two foremen and all outside employees, for their loyal and conscientious assistance.

S. C. WHITEHEAD,
Surveyor and Chief Public Health
Inspector.

TABLE I.

SOUTHAM RURAL DISTRICT.

SUMMARY OF SANITARY WORK DONE IN THE SANITARY INSPECTOR'S
DEPARTMENT DURING YEARS 1955 & 1956.

	Inspections & Observa- tions made		Notices Served				Nuisances abated after notice	
	1955	1956	Statutory		Informal		1955	1956
			1955	1956	1955	1956		
Dwelling Houses and Schools	372	412	1	—	4	1	1	—
Overcrowding	4	8	—	—	—	—	—	—
Verminous Houses	8	7	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dust Nuisances	17	10	—	—	—	—	—	—
Milkshops and Dairies	18	13	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bakehouses	21	28	—	—	—	—	—	—
Slaughterhouses	12	18	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ashpits and Privies	51	62	—	—	—	—	—	—
Deposits of Refuse and Manure	25	22	—	2	—	—	—	2
Closets	43	83	—	—	1	—	1	—
Ice Cream	21	19	—	—	—	—	—	—
House Drainage	203	257	—	—	2	—	2	—
Pigsties	16	19	—	—	—	—	—	—
Smoke Nuisance	26	32	—	—	—	—	—	—
Factories and workshops	69	37	—	—	8	1	8	1
Food Shops	130	153	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rat and Mice Infestations	262	304	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dustbins	27	38	—	—	—	—	—	—
Outworkers' Premises	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sheds, Garages, etc.	48	62	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cafes	27	36	—	—	—	—	—	—
Mobile Food Vans	20	22	—	—	—	—	—	—
Infectious Disease	23	19	—	—	—	—	—	—
Unsound Food	26	28	—	—	—	—	—	—
Water Supply	360	431	—	5	1	3	—	7
Complaints	416	422	4	—	—	—	4	—
Caravans	102	106	—	—	—	—	—	—
Canteens	3	5	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS ...	2,353	2,654	5	7	16	5	16	10

TABLE II.
SOUTHAM RURAL DISTRICT

VITAL STATISTICS OF WHOLE DISTRICT DURING 1956 AND PREVIOUS
YEARS.

YEAR.	Population estimated to Middle of each Year.	BIRTHS.		NETT DEATHS BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT.			
		Nett.		Under 1 Year of age.		At all Ages.	
		Number.	Crude Rate.	Number.	Rate per 1,000 Nett Births.	Number.	Rate.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1948	11,940	233	19.5	2	8	125	10.5
1949	11,990	226	19.0	11	49	135	11.3
1950	12,870	214	16.6	7	32.7	158	12.3
1951	12,700	226	17.8	6	26.5	138	10.9
1952	12,550	202	16.1	3	29.7	121	9.6
1953	13,050	254	19.4	8	31.5	123	9.4
1954	13,310	223	16.7	11	49.3	141	10.6
1955	14,470	222	15.7	5	22.5	138	9.1
1956	15,180	248	16.4	2	8.1	146	9.6

VITAL STATISTICS IN ENGLAND AND WALES, 1955-1956.
ENGLAND AND WALES.

*Birth-rate, Death-rate, and Infantile Mortality during the Years 1955-56.
(Provisional Figures).*

Annual Rate per 1,000 Population.

		Live Births.		Still Births per 1,000 Births.	Deaths under Deaths, one year to 1,000 Births.	
England and Wales	1955	...	15.2	23.4	11.3	25.5
	1956	...	15.7	23.0	11.7	23.8

TABLE III.

SOUTHAM RURAL DISTRICT.

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR
1955

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	Number of Cases notified.								Total cases removed to Hospital.
	At all Ages.	At Ages—Years.							
		Under 1.	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 45.	45 to 65.	65 and upwards.	
Small-pox									
Plague									
Diphtheria (including Mem- branous Croup)									
Erysipelas									
Scarlet Fever	19	1	18					3	
Typhus Fever									
Enteric Fever									
Pneumonia	7	1	2		1	2	1		
Malaria									
Dysentery									
Puerperal Pyrexia									
Meningococcal Infection									
Acute Poliomyelitis (including Polioencephalitis)	1		1						
Whooping Cough	16	1	5	9	1			1	
Encephalitis Lethargica									
Ophthalmia Neonatorum									
Measles	183	5	52	117	3	6			
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	7				4	3			
Other forms of Tuberculosis	5				4	1			
Food Poisoning									
Totals	238	7	58	147	11	12	2	4	

TABLE III.

SOUTHAM RURAL DISTRICT.

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR
1956.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	Number of Cases notified.								Total cases removed to Hospital.
	At all Ages.	At Ages—Years.							
		Under 1.	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 45.	45 to 65.	65 and upwards.	
Small-pox									
Plague									
Diphtheria (including Mem- branous Croup)									
Erysipelas									
Scarlet Fever	5	1	4						
Typhus Fever									
Enteric Fever									
Pneumonia	14	1	2	1	2	2	3	3	1
Malaria									
Dysentery	3	1	1	1					1
Puerperal Pyrexia									
Meningococcal Infection ...	1	1							1
Acute Poliomyelitis (including Polioencephalitis)	3		1	2					2
Whooping Cough	6	1	2	3					1
Encephalitis Lethargica ...									
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...									
Measles	10	1	1	5	3				
Pulmonary Tuberculosis ...	14		2	1	3	4	3	1	
Other forms of Tuberculosis	3				2	1			
Food Poisoning									
Totals	59	5	10	17	10	7	6	4	6

TABLE IV.
SOUTHAM RURAL DISTRICT.
CAUSES OF DEATH DURING THE YEAR 1955.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	MALES.	FEMALES.
1 Tuberculosis, respiratory	—	1
2 Tuberculosis, other	—	—
3 Syphilitic disease	—	—
4 Diphtheria	—	—
5 Whooping cough	—	—
6 Meningococcal infections	—	—
7 Acute poliomyelitis	1	—
8 Measles	—	—
9 Other infective and parasitic diseases	—	—
10 Malignant neoplasm, stomach	1	2
11 Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus ...	1	—
12 Malignant neoplasm, breast	—	7
13 Malignant neoplasm, uterus	—	1
14 Other malignant and lymphatic neo- plasms	7	6
15 Leukaemia, aleukaemia... ..	1	1
16 Diabetes	—	1
17 Vascular lesions of nervous system ...	8	14
18 Coronary disease, angina	10	5
19 Hypertension with heart disease ...	—	2
20 Other heart disease	9	17
21 Other circulatory disease	2	3
22 Influenza	—	—
23 Pneumonia	2	3
24 Bronchitis	6	3
25 Other disease of respiratory system ...	1	—
26 Ulcer of stomach and duodenum ...	1	—
27 Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea ...	—	1
28 Nephritis and nephrosis	1	1
29 Hyperplasia of prostate	1	—
30 Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion ...	—	—
31 Congenital malformations	—	1
32 Other defined and ill-defined diseases	8	1
33 Motor vehicle accidents	5	—
34 All other accidents	2	1
35 Suicide	—	—
36 Homicide and operations of war ...	—	—
All causes	67	71

TABLE IV.
SOUTHAM RURAL DISTRICT.
CAUSES OF DEATH DURING THE YEAR. 1956

CAUSES OF DEATH.	MALES.	FEMALES.
1 Tuberculosis, respiratory	2	—
2 Tuberculosis, other	—	—
3 Syphilitic disease	—	—
4 Diphtheria	—	—
5 Whooping cough	—	—
6 Meningococcal infections	—	—
7 Acute poliomyelitis	—	—
8 Measles	—	—
9 Other infective and parasitic diseases	—	1
10 Malignant neoplasm, stomach	2	5
11 Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus ...	4	1
12 Malignant neoplasm, breast	—	3
13 Malignant neoplasm, uterus	—	—
14 Other malignant and lymphatic neo- plasms	4	2
15 Leukaemia, aleukaemia	1	—
16 Diabetes	—	—
17 Vascular lesions of nervous system ...	10	7
18 Coronary disease, angina	14	3
19 Hypertension with heart disease ...	—	—
20 Other heart disease	18	19
21 Other circulatory disease	4	4
22 Influenza	1	1
23 Pneumonia	7	7
24 Bronchitis	—	1
25 Other disease of respiratory system ...	1	1
26 Ulcer of stomach and duodenum ...	—	—
27 Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea ...	—	—
28 Nephritis and nephrosis	—	—
29 Hyperplasia of prostate	2	—
30 Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion ...	—	—
31 Congenital malformations	1	—
32 Other defined and ill-defined diseases	5	6
33 Motor vehicle accidents	4	—
34 All other accidents	1	2
35 Suicide	2	—
36 Homicide and operations of war ...	—	—
All causes	83	63

